What Is Claimed Is:

- 1. A method for identifying an individual who has an altered risk for developing an autoimmune disease, comprising detecting a single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) in any one of the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NOS:1-669 and 1339-49,582 in said individual's nucleic acids, wherein the presence of the SNP is correlated with an altered risk for autoimmune disease.
 - 2. The method of claim 1 in which the altered risk is an increased risk.
- The method of claim 2 in which said individual
 - 3. The method of claim 2 in which said individual presently has the autoimmune disease.
 - 4. The method of claim 1 in which the altered risk is a decreased risk.

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- 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the SNP is selected from the group consisting of the SNPs set forth in Table 6.
- 6. The method of claim 1 in which detection is carried out by a process selected from the group consisting of: allele-specific probe hybridization, allele-specific primer extension, allele-specific amplification, sequencing, 5' nuclease digestion, molecular beacon assay, oligonucleotide ligation assay, size analysis, and single-stranded conformation polymorphism.
- 7. The method of claim 1, wherein said autoimmune disease is rheumatoid arthritis.
- 8. The method of claim 1, wherein said autoimmune disease is selected from the group consisting of type 1 diabetes, multiple sclerosis, systemic lupus erythematosus, inflammatory bowel diseases, psoriasis, thyroiditis, celiac disease, pernicious anemia,

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asthma, vitiligo, glomerulonephritis, Graves' disease, myocarditis, Sjogren disease, and primary systemic vasculitis.

- 9. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising at least 8 contiguous
 nucleotides wherein one of the nucleotides is a single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP)
 selected from any one of the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NOS:1-669 and 1339-49,582, or a complement thereof.
- 10. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 9, wherein the SNP is selected10 from the group consisting of the SNPs set forth in Tables 3 and 4.
 - 11. An isolated nucleic acid molecule that encodes any one of the amino acid sequences in SEQ ID NOS:670-1338.

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- 15 12. An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:670-1338.
 - 13. An antibody that specifically binds to a polypeptide of claim 12, or an antigen-binding fragment thereof.
 - 14. The antibody of claim 13 in which the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.
- 15. An amplified polynucleotide containing a single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) selected from any one of the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NOS:1-669 and 1339-49,582, or a complement thereof, wherein the amplified polynucleotide is between 16 and 1,000 nucleotides in length.
- 16. The amplified polynucleotide of claim 15 in which the nucleotide sequence comprises any one of the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NOS:1-669 and30 1339-49,582.

- 17. An isolated polynucleotide which specifically hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule containing a single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) in any one of the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NOS:1-669 and 1339-49,582.
- 5 18. The polynucleotide of claim 17 which is 8-70 nucleotides in length.
 - 19. The polynucleotide of claim 17 which is an allele-specific probe.
 - 20. The polynucleotide of claim 17 which is an allele-specific primer.

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- 21. The polynucleotide of claim 17, wherein the polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of the primer sequences set forth in Table 5 (SEQ ID NOS:49,583-50,230).
- 15 22. A kit for detecting a single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) in a nucleic acid, wherein the kit comprises the polynucleotide of claim 17, a buffer, and an enzyme.
 - 23. A method of detecting a single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) in a nucleic acid molecule, comprising contacting a test sample with a reagent which specifically hybridizes to a SNP in any one of the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NOS:1-669 and 1339-49,582 under stringent hybridization conditions, and detecting the binding of the reagent with the nucleic acid molecule.
- 24. The method of claim 23 in which detection is carried out by a process selected from the group consisting of: allele-specific probe hybridization, allele-specific primer extension, allele-specific amplification, sequencing, 5' nuclease digestion, molecular beacon assay, oligonucleotide ligation assay, size analysis, and single-stranded conformation polymorphism.
- 30 25. A method of detecting a variant polypeptide, comprising contacting a reagent with a variant polypeptide encoded by a single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP)

in any one of the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NOS:1-669 and 1339-49,582 in a test sample, and detecting the binding of the reagent to the polypeptide.

26. A method for identifying an agent useful in therapeutically or5 prophylactically treating rheumatoid arthritis, comprising contacting the polypeptide of claim 12 with a candidate agent under conditions suitable to allow formation of a binding complex between the polypeptide and the candidate agent, and detecting the formation of the binding complex, wherein the presence of the complex identifies said agent.